

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 EB-08 OES-07 FEA-01 ERDA-07 SSO-00 INRE-00
/112 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH/DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

-----064371 012338Z /73

O 012255Z NOV 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - NOVEMBER 1

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR NOVEMBER 1,
1977. FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

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MR. CARTER OPENED THE SESSION WITH THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT:

"THE SPOKESMAN HAS HAD IT POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT HE MAY
HAVE LEFT THE WRONG IMPRESSION YESTERDAY IN HIS BRIEF
REFERENCE IN THE BRIEFING TO OIL PRICES. THERE
SHOULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING. WE BELIEVE THERE IS NO
ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION AT THIS TIME FOR ANY, I REPEAT,
ANY OIL PRICE INCREASE. HOLDING OIL PRICES NO HIGHER
THAN THEY ARE RIGHT NOW IS A PRIMARY CONCERN IN OUR
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OPEC COUNTRIES. WE ARE MAKING
CLEAR TO THESE GOVERNMENTS OUR VIEW THAT NOT RAISING
OIL PRICES AT ALL IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN MAINTAINING
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC STABILITY.

Q. IS THIS STATEMENT DIRECTED AT THE NEXT OPEC MEETING
IN DECEMBER?

A. THIS STATEMENT IS DIRECTED AT THE QUESTION OF THE
POSSIBILITY OF HIGHER OIL PRICES. WHEN I, IN AN OFF
HAND COMMENT, SAID SOMETHING (YESTERDAY) ALONG
THE LINE OF MAJOR INCREASE OR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE,

THAT WAS A MISSTATEMENT BY ERRING TOO MUCH ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION.

Q. YOU REMEMBER THE BASIS OF THE QUESTION WAS SAUD FAISAL AND WHAT HE HAS SAID ABOUT USING OIL AS A THREAT, AS A WEAPON IN ANY MIDDLE EAST WAR. IS IT CLEAR THAT THIS IS WHAT HE WAS TOLD; THAT HE WAS TOLD DURING HIS VISIT HERE THAT OUR POSITION IS AGAINST ANY (INCREASE)? "ANY" IS VERY FLAT; "ANY" DOESN'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INFLATION.

A. THAT HAS BEEN OUR POSITION.

Q. HE WAS TOLD?
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A. YES. WE HAVE MADE THAT CLEAR IN CONVERSATIONS NOT ONLY RECENTLY BUT OVER A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

Q. WHAT IF THEY DO INCREASE IT AT THE NEXT MEETING?

A. WHAT WE, OF COURSE, HOPE IS THAT THEY WILL NOT AND THE "WHAT IF" IS SOMETHING I WILL DEAL WITH IF IT BECOMES A REALITY.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT TO BE IGNORED?

A. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CASE FOR HOLDING DOWN OIL PRICES IS PERSUASIVE AND WE ASSUME THAT THAT POSITION WOULD BE CLEAR.

Q. OIL PRICES ARE PEGGED TO THE DOLLAR. WOULD THE UNITED STATES ALSO BE OPPOSED TO ANY INDEXING ARRANGEMENT WITH THE SLIDING PRICE OF THE DOLLAR?

A. THE SPECIFIC POSITION ON THAT I WILL JUST HAVE TO GET THE EXACT LANGUAGE ON IT. MY GENERAL FEELING IS THAT THE STABILITY OF THE WORLD ECONOMY IN LARGE MEASURE, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF OTHER MATTERS, INCLUDING THE STABILITY OF CURRENCIES, DEPENDS IN LARGE MEASURE ON THIS AND WE ARE STRONGLY URGING THAT PRICES BE RETAINED AT THE LEVEL THEY NOW STAND.

Q. YOUR STATEMENT JUST NOW, IS IT A STATEMENT OF POSITION OR IS IT A KIND OF WARNING?

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A. IT IS A REITERATION OF POSITION. IT REALLY SHOULD BE TAKEN AS WHAT IT IS, WHICH IS THE SPOKESMAN HAVING LAPSED YESTERDAY I.E. ME. JUST TO MAKE IT CLEAR AGAIN, OUR POSITION ON THIS IS NO INCREASE.

Q. SUPPOSING THERE IS AN INCREASE IN PRICES, WHAT THEN?

A. THE "WHAT THEN" IS WHAT WE WOULD HAVE TO SEE AT THE TIME. WE BELIEVE THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY ADVERSE TO IT AND I ITEMIZED TO WHOM YESTERDAY. NOT MERELY TO THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD, BUT TO THE LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS WELL.

Q. BUT IS THERE ANY ACTION THAT YOU CAN TAKE AGAINST IT?

A. AGAIN THIS TAKES ME INTO THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL IN ANY CASE, BUT IF YOU ARE SUGGESTING DO WE HAVE PLANS FOR SOME DRAMATIC ACTION, I KNOW OF NONE.

Q. ARE THERE ANY PLANS OR PROPOSED PLANS FOR EITHER THE SECRETARY OR THE PRESIDENT TO MEET PRIME MINISTER BEGIN?

A. I HAVE ASKED THAT QUESTION BASED UPON THE REPORTS. I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO SUBSTANTIATION TO OFFER YOU ON THAT. BUT TO PUT IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND, NEITHER THE BUREAU IN THIS DEPARTMENT NOR THE WHITE HOUSE SEEM TO KNOW ANYTHING OF SUCH A MEETING.

Q. SPECIFICALLY, IT HAS NOT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE PLO?

A. IT HAD TO DO WITH BOTH THE SEATING -- AS I RECALL -- OF AN OBSERVER STATUS, REPRESENTATIVE AND A RESOLUTION ON ZIONISM EQUATING IT WITH RACISM; BUT BEYOND THAT I DO NOT REMEMBER, AND I DON'T WANT TO TRY TO SUGGEST THAT THAT ENCOMPASSES ALL OF WHAT WAS ITEMIZED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY KISSINGER.

Q. WE'RE IN NOVEMBER AND YOU'RE PLANNING ON THE GENEVA CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH. CAN YOU UPDATE US A LITTLE ON WHERE WE STAND?

A. I HAVE NOTHING NEW. OUR EFFORTS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC

CHANNELS CONTINUE. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT DIFFERENCES ON THE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS CAN BE RESOLVED SO THAT THE CONFERENCE CAN BE RESUMED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

Q. WELL, ONE APPROACH TO RESOLVING THOSE PROCEDURAL DIFFERENCES SEEMS TO BE SORT OF A PRE-SUMMIT SUMMIT -- THE PLO MEETING WITH EGYPT, JORDAN AND SYRIA. ARE YOU TAKEN WITH THAT AS A GOOD WAY TO TRY TO GET SOME MORE UNITY AMONG THE ARAB PARTIES? ARE YOU ENDORSING THAT MEETING AS IT WAS REPORTED THIS MORNING?

A. WE'VE HEARD THE SAME REPORTS THAT YOU HAVE, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION INDEPENDENT OF THAT ABOUT SUCH A MEETING -- OR, TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT REPORT. INsofar AS WHAT ITS UTILITY WOULD BE, THAT'S REALLY UP TO THE PARTICIPANTS TO SAY, IF SUCH A MEETING DID IN FACT COME OFF.

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MR. YIGAL ALLON'S SUGGESTION THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT YEAR?

A. I REALLY DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON MR. ALLON'S SUGGESTIONS AT ALL, EXCEPT JUST TO REITERATE THAT WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONVENE THE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: WBHARRIS:RGH/DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770402-0420
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197711107/aaaadopn.tel
Line Count: 257
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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